

Message Text

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72

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 SAM-01 DRC-01 /094 W
----- 016917

R 311235Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1351

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, ILO, ELAB, XG, SW

SUBJECT: EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE OF JANUARY 19

REF: STATE 00922

1. SUMMARY: SWEDISH LO EX-PRESIDENT ARNE GEIJER
AND INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY THORBJORN CARLSSON IN
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SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS DESCRIBED JANUARY 19 EAST-

WEST TRADE UNION MEETING AS "NON-HAPPENING" IN TERMS OF CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS. ONLY RESULT WAS AGREEMENT TO HOLD MEETING AT END OF YEAR ON SAFE, NEUTRAL TOPIC UNDER CONDITIONS TO BE DETERMINED. GEIJER OF OPINION THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO FOUR WORKER DELEGATES SUFFICIENTLY BROAD THAT FOLLOW-UP MEETING WILL NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY FALL UNDER ILO UMBRELLA BUT MAY WELL BE ORGANIZED AND FINANCED BY NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTERS. END OF SUMMARY.

2. GEIJER AND CARLSSON SAID DOMINANT THEME OF JANUARY 19 MEETING WAS SWEETNESS AND LIGHT. EASTERN UNIONS BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO APPEAR REASONABLE AND UNDEMANDING. GEIJER SAID IT OBVIOUS THAT EASTERN BEHAVIOR RESULT OF DIRECT FOREIGN POLICY DECISION TO PROFIT IN TRADE UNION AREA FROM GENERAL POLITICAL DETENTE. CARLSSON AGREED SOVIETS HAPPY JUST TO HAVE HELD MEETING AS INITIAL STEP TOWARD SOVIET GOAL OF FULL-BLOWN ALL-DUROPEAN MEETING, AND/OR ORGANIZATION. WHILE CONCEDING JANUARY 19 MEETING AND COMMITMENT OF SUBSEQUENT MEETING WERE IN THEMSELVES GAINS FOR SOVIETS, SWEDES CALLED ATTENTION TO FACT THAT NEITHER JANUARY 19 NOR PLANNED SUBSEQUENT MEETING ARE YET THE TYPE OF GATHERING SOVIETS WANT. SAID THAT FOR ITS PART LO RETAINS HEALTHY DOSE OF SCEPTICISM RE SOVIET MEANS AND ENDS.

3. CARLSSON SAID STATE OF DISORGANIZATION AMONG WESTERN DELEGATES REVEALED BY ABSENCE OF ANY MEANINGFUL PRELIMINARY CAUCUSES, DESPITE GENERAL AGREEMENT THIS SHOULD HAPPEN. JANUARY 18 ICFTU COCKTAIL PARTY DESCRIBED AS HAPHAZARD STAND-UP AFFAIR WHERE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERTAKE SERIOUS PLANNING AND DISCUSSION. HE ADDED SWEDES CONFUSED, AT BEST, BY BEHAVOIR OF BRITISH TUC. CORRIDOR TALK HAD IT THAT INTERNAL BICKERING WITHIN TUC WAS STRONG OVER CREATION OF PERMANENT COMMITTEE OR SECRETARIAT. FURTHER, CARLSSON SAID SOME TUC DELEGATES, OTHERWISE UNIDENTIFIED, APPEARD TO BE ACTINGAS AUCCTU SPOKESMEN IN CORRIDORS, BUT ENTIRE DELEGATION SHOWED RESTRAINT AND MODERATION AT MEETING ITSELF. CURIOUS BEHAVIOR MADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TUC APPEAR TO BE EITHER RUDDERLESS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, DRIFTING UNDER THE WIND OF THE MOMENT, OR BEDEVILED BY TOO MANY CAPTAINS STRUGGLING FOR THE WHEEL, IN EITHER EVENT WITH LITTLE REGARD FOR LONG-TERM EFFECTS.

4. ON VETTER OIL CRISIS COMPLAINT CARLSSON SAID DGB CHIEF CIRCULATED LETTER TO ICFTU AFFILIATES SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING REMINDING THEM OF UNDERSTANDING RE LOW-KEY

APPROACH TO MEETING, BUT ADDING INTENTION TO
CRITICISE EASTERN UNIONS ALONG LINES INDICATED BONN 0834.
HOWEVER, IN HIS JAN 19 ADDRESS, VETTER SAID SINCE IT
HAD BEEN AGREED NO POLITICAL ISSUES WOULD BE DISCUSSED,
AND OIL CRISIS IS A POLITICAL ISSUE, HE WOULD NOT BRING
MATTER UP. NO SUBSEQUENT COMMENT FROM FLOOR AND
NEITHER GEIJER NOR CARLSSON AWARE OF ANY CORRIDOR
DISCUSSION.

5. IN ASSESSING OUTCOME OF MEETING, GEIJER AND CARLSSON
REPEATED SWEDISH VIEW THAT EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONTACTS
ARE INEVITABLE AND IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP IN CURRENT POLITICAL
DETENTE ATMOSPHERE. HOWEVER, WESTERN UNIONS MUST BE
WARE OF SOVIET TACTICS AND MOTIVES. WIDELY-SPACED
TECHNICAL MEETINGS ON NEUTRAL SUBJECTS APPEAR TO SWEDES
TO BE BEST WAY TO "BUY TIME" IN ORDER TO SLOW DOWN AND
CONTROL VIRTUALLY HEADLONG AND OFTEN UNTHINKING RUSH TO
THE EAST BY MANY WESTERN UNIONS. TIME THUS BOUGHT
SHOULD HELP DIVINE SOVIET MOTIVES WHICH GEIJER AND
CARLSSON STILL FIND UNCLEAR AND SUSPECT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EAST WEST MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STOCKH00412
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974011/aaaaaanr.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 00922
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <12 APR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE OF JANUARY 19
TAGS: AORG, ELAB, XG, SW, ILO, (GEIJER, ARNE), (CARLSSON, THORBJORN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005